

**BACKGROUND:** Hierarchical references represent levels of superordination and subordination. In LCGFT they are indicated by the notations narrower term (NT) and broader term (BT). Terms in LCGFT may display one of two hierarchical relationships:

- **Genus/species (or class/class member)**

**Animal films**  
BT Motion pictures

**Nautical charts**  
BT Loran charts

- **Whole/part**

**Film excerpts**  
BT Motion pictures

**Radio outtakes**  
BT Radio programs

Only the BTs are explicitly included in LCGFT authority records; the NTs are computer-generated for display. Example:

**Apocalyptic comics**  
BT Science fiction comics  
[explicitly coded]

**Science fiction comics**  
NT Apocalyptic comics  
[computer-generated]

**1. General rule.** Make appropriate BT references when establishing a new term, following the general principle above. Also follow the guidelines for making BT references for particular types of terms that are given in specific instruction sheets for the disciplines.

**1. General rule. (Continued)**

Link a new term only to the next broader term in the logical hierarchy by means of a BT.  
*Example:*

**Operas**  
BT Dramatic music

[not **Operas**  
BT Dramatic music  
BT Music]

**2. Number of BTs.**

**a. General rule.** Make at least one BT when establishing a new term. Make this BT even if both terms begin with the same word. *Example:*

**Television comedies**  
BT Television programs

“Orphan” terms – terms having no BT – are prohibited in LCGFT, except for the topmost term in each hierarchy (e.g., **Instructional and educational works**; **Law materials**; **Motion pictures**).

**b. Number of BT references.** Most single-concept terms belong to only one hierarchy and require only one BT. Some terms may incorporate more than one hierarchy and therefore require BTs in each hierarchy, but more than three BTs are rarely provided. Link the new term to the next broader term in each hierarchy. *Examples:*

**Morality plays**  
BT Allegories  
BT Didactic drama  
BT Religious drama

**Textured books**  
BT Tactile works  
BT Toy and movable books

**3. Revising existing hierarchical references.** When establishing a new term that is an intermediate term in a hierarchy, add the new term as a BT to the authority records for all existing narrower ones, and delete any BTs that link any existing terms to terms broader than the newly-established intermediate term. *Example:*

The term **Sepolcrist** was assigned the BT **Lenten music**. When **Holy Week music** was proposed, the BTs on the existing term **Sepolcrist** was cancelled and the BT **Holy Week music** assigned, resulting in the following hierarchy:

**Lenten music**  
NT Holy Week music

**Holy Week music**  
NT Sepolcrist